(b) whether it is a fact that natural gas worth several crores of rupees is at present being burnt as waste at the Bombay High and Madras;

(c) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to lay a net work of gas pipeline linking the natural gas bases on the Krishna-Godavari basin, Gujarat, Bombay High and other areas to augment the supply of oil and natural gas in the country.

(d) whether Government have prepared any blue prints and the estimates of the cost likely to be incurred in setting up a national gas grid; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PEROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (e) The national gas grid is a part of the long-term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is under way for discovering oil and gas reserves.

No Gas is being flared in Madras. In Bombay High during 1985-86 about 40 per cent of gas produced was flared and during 1986-87 this came down to about 24 per cent.

Price control on Drugs

*14. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to decontrol the prices of certain drugs which are being produced by a number of manufacturers in the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee on essential drugs has been assigned the function of giving hearings to consumer bodies, medical professionals and individuals in regard to drug prices and allied matters?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The details are contained in the booklet "Measures for Rationalisation, quality control and Growth of Pharmaceutical Industry in India", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) An Expert Committee has been constituted to draw up the list of drugs which would form Category II. The Committee will on its descretion consult representative Associations and bodies.

Spreaders project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

*15. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what target date, if any, has been fixed by Neyveli Lignite Corporation to complete the Spreaders projects of its Second Mine expansion programme;

(b) by when it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any precautions have been taken to ensure that only reliable equipment is imported; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The two 20000 T/Hr. spreaders of the second mine expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. are scheduled to be commissioned by 10-4-1989 and 10-8-1989 respectively.